

NOV 09 2004

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: PEG-2001CP1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Harry Macey

In re Application of:

Proctor, et al.

Serial No.: 09/753,122

Filing Date: December 29, 2000

Title: DUCT JOINING SYSTEM

Examiner: A. Dunwoody

Group Art Unit: 3679

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 9, 2004 to which a response is due
November 9, 2004.

11/24/2004 EHARRIS 00000006 501947 09753122

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

01 FC:1201 176.00 DA
02 FC:1202 162.00 DA

Examiner clearly point to specific examples in the cited references that support any rejection so maintained. For example, if the Examiner maintains the product-by-process characterization of claim 41, Applicants request support for that characterization and a clarification of what "the system having...is given little patentable weight" means.

Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date. If a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due, including additional claims fees, in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-1947 referencing Attorney Docket No. PEG-2001CPI.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 9, 2004

By


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